

MINUTES OF CONFERENCE OF STATE GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES ON BIRD PROTECTION.

OPENED AT BOARD ROOM, LANDS DEPARTMENT, MEL-
BOURNE, ON 19TH NOVEMBER, 1908.

PRESENT :

Western Australia	...	Right Hon. Sir John Forrest, P.C., G.C.M.G., M.H.R.
Queensland	...	Mr. E. W. Archer, M.H.R.
South Australia	...	Mr. J. W. Mellor.
Tasmania	...	Mr. A. L. Butler.
Victoria	...	Mr. C. W. Maclean.

The Hon. D. E. McBryde, M.L.C., Commissioner of Public Works, and Administrator of the Game Acts in Victoria, welcomed the representatives.

BUSINESS.

On the motion of Mr. Mellor (South Australia) and Mr. Butler (Tasmania), Mr. Maclean (Victoria) was elected Chairman of the Conference.

After a conversational discussion of the Articles, as submitted by the Australian Ornithologists' Union as a guide to the business of the Conference, it was decided to adjourn till 10 a.m. next day.

FRIDAY, 20TH NOVEMBER, 1908.

All Members present.

Telegram from New South Wales Government to the effect that the "Chief Secretary considers no appointment necessary on behalf of this State at Conference *re* Game Laws," was read and received.

Letter from Launcelot Harrison, New South Wales, giving information concerning the Game Laws of that State, and the manner of administration, was also read and received.

Article 1. Mr. Mellor (South Australia) moved that, as in all civilized countries it is an accepted axiom that insectivorous birds, taken in connexion with agriculture in the broad sense, and forestry, are a national asset, this Conference affirms that the proper protection of the useful birds of the Commonwealth is of far-reaching importance. Mr. A. L. Butler (Tasmania) seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

2. Mr. Maclean (Victoria) moved that this Conference thinks it desirable that the Commonwealth Ministry should, as soon as possible, introduce legislative measures in the interests of the protection of bird life, to supplement the existing State laws so far as concerns the export of plumes, emu eggs, &c. Seconded by Mr. Butler (Tasmania), and carried unanimously.

3. That in connexion with No. 2, the Secretary of the (proposed) Federal Department of Agriculture (or, for the time being, the Secretary of the Department of Home Affairs) to be authorized to adopt such measures as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of such an Act, and to make and publish all needful rules and regulations for carrying out the same. Adopted without discussion.

4. Mr. Archer (Queensland) moved that reciprocity be urged in the direction that each State undertakes the watching of the importation of protected birds from adjoining States during the close season thereof by the appointment of inspectors for that purpose. Seconded by Mr. Butler (Tasmania), and carried unanimously.

5. Mr. Butler (Tasmania) moved that in each State of the Commonwealth the onus of proof of protected birds having been brought from, or into, any other State should be on the person having such game in possession after one week following the commencement of the close season for such game. Seconded by Mr. Mellor (South Australia), and carried.

6. Mr. Butler (Tasmania) moved that in consideration of the increased number of birds destroyed, it is to the interest of the conservation of birds that each Sunday should be proclaimed by the Government of each State a close season within a defined radius around each town. Seconded by Mr. Maclean (Victoria), and carried.

7. Mr. Archer (Queensland) moved that it be a recommendation to each State that it is desirable that a "bird" day be added to "arbor" day, to be observed in the State and Secondary Schools for the promotion of the spirit of protection of birds and trees; also that Proclamations regarding game preservation should be posted at all post offices, police stations, railway stations, and all schools throughout each State. Seconded by Mr. Mellor (South Australia), and carried.

8. Mr. Archer (Queensland) moved that each member of the Conference obtain copies of the resolutions and proceedings, and endeavour to get the recommendations carried out. Seconded by Sir John Forrest (Western Australia), and carried.

9. Mr. Archer (Queensland) moved that a Sub-Committee, consisting of Messrs. Maclean, Butler, and Mellor, assisted by Mr. Campbell, A.O.U., consider the different Acts, and report recommendations at next sitting of Conference. Seconded by Mr. Butler (Tasmania), and carried.

Conference adjourned at 12 noon till 10 a.m. on Saturday.

Sub-Committee met at 2.30 to consider Acts, &c.

SATURDAY, 21ST NOVEMBER, 1908.

Present —All Delegates, with Messrs. Campbell, Mattingley, Le Souef, of A.O.U.

10. Mr. Maclean (Victoria) moved that in view of the acclimatization from older civilized countries of birds which have proved to have abnormally increased in numbers, and to be in many cases of doubtful utility to Australia, where valuable native birds have decreased, it is recommended that each State prevent the liberation therein of birds which are habitually wild in other countries, and that the Commonwealth Government be recommended to, as far as possible, check the importation of such birds, which may become additional pests. Seconded by Mr. Butler (Tasmania), and carried.



Australia), Rt. Hon. Sir JOHN FORREST, G.C.M.G. (Western Australia), T. DIMELOW (Secretary), C. W. MACLEAN
A. L. BUTLER (Tasmania), A. J. CAMPBELL, Col. Mem. B.O.U., C. L. BARRETT (*The Herald*).

Bird Protection.

t of Lands, Melbourne, November, 1908.)



From left to right—D. LE SOUEF, C.M.Z.S., A. H. E. MATTINGLEY, C.M.Z.S., J. W. MELLOR (South Australia),
(Victoria, Chairman), Hon. D. E. M'BRYDE, M.L.C., E. W. ARCHER, M.H.R. (Queensland),
Shorthand Writer STOTT.

Inter-State Conference on
(Held in the Board Room, Department of Agriculture)

11. Mr. Maclean (Victoria) moved that for the conservation of birds each State be recommended to establish absolutely protected reserves on Crown lands, preferably near towns, whereon no shooting of protected birds is to be permitted throughout the whole of each year. Seconded by Mr. Mellor (South Australia), and carried.

Recommendations of the Sub-Committee were then read by the Secretary.

12. Mr. Mellor (South Australia) moved that the following list of birds, recommended by the Sub-Committee for protection for the whole year throughout the Commonwealth, be adopted:—

LIST OF BIRDS FOR TOTAL PROTECTION.

(AS RECOMMENDED BY SUB-COMMITTEE.)

Common Name.	Scientific Family or Generic Name.	Species number for reference according to Gould's Handbook of the Birds of Australia (all inclusive).
Barn Owls	Strix	28 to 31
Nightjars and Frogmouths ...	Caprimulgidæ	38 to 50
Swallows and Martins	Hirundinidæ	53 to 57
Green Merops	Merops	58
Dollar-Bird	Eurystomus	59
Kingfishers of all Species ...	Alcedinidæ	60 to 72
Wood Swallows	Artamidæ	73 to 80
Diamond Birds	Pardalotus	81 to 87
Magpies	Gymnorhina	92 to 94
Magpie Larks	Grallina	102
Cuckoo Shrikes, thick-heads ; Shrike Tits, Bell-birds and Thrushes of all Species	Campephaginæ Cinclosoma, and Oreocincla	103 to 131 271 to 275
Fantails, Flycatchers, and Fly- eaters, all Species	Muscicapidæ	134 to 162
Robins of all Species... ..	Saxicolidæ	163 to 178
Lyre Birds	Menuridæ	179 to 181
Coachwhip Birds	Psophodes	182 to 183
Superb Warblers, Emu Wrens, Warblers and Wrens of all Species	Malurus, Amytis, Stipiturus Sphenura, Atrichia, Cisticola, Hylacola, Sericornis, Origma, Calamanthus, Chthonicola, Sphenæacus, and Calamoherpe	185 to 189 236 to 239 244 to 247
Tits of all Species	Acanthiza and Geobasileus	220 to 230
Chats of all Species	Ephthianura	131 to 133
Pipits and Larks of all Species	Motacollidæ	240 to 243, and 248
Pittas of all Species	Pittadæ	269 to 270
Rifle Birds of all Species ...	Ptilorhis	363 to 365
Tree Creepers	Climacteris	366 to 371
Sittellas or Tree Runners ...	Sittinæ	373 to 376
Cuckoos of all Species	Cuculindæ	377 to 387
Coucals or Swamp Pheasants ...	Centropodinæ	388
Black Cockatoos of all Species	Cacatuidæ	397 to 404
Ground or Swamp Parrots ...	Pezoporus, and Geopsittacus	441 to 442
Emus and Cassowaries	Dromæidæ, and Casuariidæ	492 to 494
Scrub Curlews, or Stone Plovers	Edicnemidæ	496 to 497
Ibis and Spoonbills	Ptalaleidæ	538 to 542
Cranes, Herons, and Bitterns, all Species	Ardeidæ	543 to 562

Seconded by Mr. Butler (Tasmania) and carried.

13. Mr. Butler (Tasmania) moved that the following recommendations of the Sub-Committee be adopted:—

1. That regulations be made for scheduling birds to be protected, as well as birds which are not to be protected. Also regulations for the issue of licences to take birds or eggs for

scientific purposes, limiting the time, species, and number of birds or eggs to be taken, and prohibiting the taking of them within protected reserves or sanctuaries.

2. That the schedule of birds should include the common name, scientific family, or generic name, and a species number from Gould's Handbook to the *Birds of Australia*.
3. That punt guns should be clearly defined as to weight and bore, and it should be made an offence to have such a gun, or parts thereof, in possession under any circumstances.
4. That any officer authorized, or member of the police force, may, with or without warrant, at all times during business hours enter any open shop, and the premises tenanted therewith, or any factory, or any licensed public house, or any premises of or connected with any factory or licensed public house, or any tent, vehicle, or boat, or may search any person or persons carrying a gun or guns, or accompanied by any dog or dogs, or may search any parcel, bag, or other receptacle that such person or persons may have, in which he has reason to believe he will find any game, or native game, or any eggs, flesh, skin, feathers, or any part of any game, or native game, which any person may have in his possession contrary to any provisions of the Game Acts, and such officer or member may seize and take possession of such game, native game, eggs, flesh, skin, feathers, or part, and anything so taken possession of shall be destroyed, or otherwise disposed of in such manner as the officer administering such Acts may direct.
5. That the use of firearms for sporting purposes be limited to persons over sixteen years of age, who hold a gun licence, which should be issued upon payment of a suitable fee, and with instructions that shooting of protected or unprotected game is not allowed on Sundays within a prescribed area, nor within any protected area.

Seconded by Mr. Archer (Queensland), and carried.

14. Mr. Maclean (Victoria) moved that, owing to this Conference being unable to prepare a complete "Model Bird Protection Bill," through the impossibility of dictating how each State should legislate, in detail, and owing to the constitutional relations between the Commonwealth and the States, no such Bill, as was intended, will be prepared; but, instead, the series of recommendations resolved upon be submitted to each State for favorable consideration for the protection of birds. Seconded by Mr. Mellor (South Australia), and carried.

15. Mr. Archer (Queensland) moved that a vote of thanks be conveyed to the Lands Department for the use of the Board Room, to the Agricultural Department for the loan of the cases of birds, also to Mr. Maclean (Victoria) for presiding at Conference. Seconded by Mr. Mellor (South Australia), and carried.

Conference closed at 11.30 a.m.

C. W. MACLEAN,
Chairman.

T. DIMELOW,
Secretary.



Maclean, C W and Dimelow, T. 1908. "Minutes of Conference of State Government Representatives on Bird Protection." *The Emu : official organ of the Australasian Ornithologists' Union* 8(4), 1–4.

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